

BATTLESHIPS TOO MASSIVE

Land Is Place for Fortress and
Not Sea, Says British
Admiral.

SUBMARINE NOT OF VALUE

Sir Cyprian Bridge Is of Opinion
That Modern American Battle-
ships are Vastly Superior
to the British.

New York, April 30.—Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge of the British navy, who before his retirement March 14, was commander-in-chief on the China station, has sailed for England. In discussing developments in the far east he expressed the opinion that very large battleships have proved to be undesirable.

"I see no new lesson from torpedo boats in the present war," he said. "My view is there is only one way to defend yourself effectively against torpedo attack and that is to assume a vigorous offensive. The essence of a torpedo boat attack is attack by surprise. If you simply remain quiet and trust in an obstruction which you put around you, you are bound to find a soft place in it for there is no armor yet which has not its weak spots. I do not regard the submarine as progressive. In my opinion it has somewhat handicapped torpedo boats.

"Battleships, when very large are ineffective. The modern battleship is a fortress afloat and the land is the place for a fortress. To my mind, it is inadvisable to build battleships larger than your Kearsarge and Kentucky, and even they are a bit large. The Kentucky, by the way, is a remarkable ship. But as a fighter, I do not rate her superior to H. M. Glory, my late flagship.

"But I do not hesitate to say that the sanitary arrangements in the latest type of British battleships are disgusting. In respect to the fittings of the Kentucky, she is 100 years in advance of any of our warships."

No Assets in Sight.

San Francisco, April 30.—The Examiner says: The failure for \$1,700,000

of the fruit buying and shipping firm of Porter Bros. Company about a year ago is recalled by the fact that the California and eastern creditors have just reluctantly reached the conclusion that with the exception of a few debts protected by good securities there will not be enough available assets to pay more than between 15 and 18 cents on the dollar.

KRUGER VERY WEAK.

Famous Ex-President of Boers Believed to Be Near Death's Door.

Mentone, France, April 30.—While it is difficult to ascertain the exact state of Mr. Kruger's health, it is said on good authority that symptoms of cerebral affection are apparent and that a consultation of physicians has been held. Mr. Kruger is now extremely weak and constant care is necessary.

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DEPARTMENT IN BAD FORM

Chicago Fire Fighters Reported
to Be Unable to Cope With
Serious Fire.

EQUIPMENT INSUFFICIENT

Investigation by Board of Under-
writers Finds that Chicago Is
On Down Grade Regarding
Firemen.

Chicago, April 30.—William H. Johnson, inspector for the national board of underwriters, which has just concluded a six weeks' investigation of the Chicago fire department and other auxiliaries affecting the fire insurance of the city, has made his report. Among other things he finds:

"That the present fire fighting force is inadequate numerically, its equipment is insufficient and the department as a whole is on the down grade. That the downtown, or congested district, is in danger of a serious conflagration.

"That the merchants and owners of buildings are careless and neglect to avail themselves of the various precautionary devices with which their buildings are equipped.

"That the present water facilities are behind the times.

"That many of the engine houses are unfit to the uses that they are put.

"That physically incapacitated men are on the force."

In sending out this result the fire department committee of the national board of firewriters suggests:

"That the members ask the co-operation of the agents in efforts to secure the improvements recommended."

Great Strike Threatened.

New York, April 30.—Branches of the carriage and wagon workers' union in New York and vicinity have been notified to take final action before Monday on the demands which they have made on the employers to go into effect on that day. The men declare that unless their employers capitulate they will strike. About 6000 men will be affected.

BEAUTIFUL HOME OF LATE W. C. WHITNEY CHANGES HANDS

Heirs Dispose of House and Effects to
Millionaire James Henry Smith
for \$2,500,000.

New York, April 30.—Although William C. Whitney's will provided that his magnificent house at 871 Fifth avenue "shall be maintained as a home" for his daughter Dorothy and his stepchildren for two years after his death, it is reported to have been sold to James Henry Smith, heir of the \$50,000,000 estate of George Smith of Chicago and London. None of those directly interested has confirmed the report. The price paid is \$2,500,000,

together with many rare paintings, and objects of art with the exception of a single painting, a Van Dyke for which \$100,000 was paid. If the sale has been at the figure indicated it will go on record as the highest paid for a private residence in New York. The building is a four-story structure at the northeast corner of the avenue and Sixty-eighth street with a Fifth avenue frontage 55x200 feet on the south side of the street.

newspapers in each city of the world, but to readers of the paper the charge will be only 10 cents a copy. Call at The Astorian office and get one. The entire series will consist of 30 portfolios, issued one each week, which will be mailed direct to subscribers from St. Louis if the subscription price of \$3.00 is deposited at The Astorian office.

A GREAT SENSATION.

There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind., when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma, but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure." Similar cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c, and \$1.00. Guaranteed by Charles Rogers, Druggist. Trial bottles free.

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Ever have a "low-down" pain in the back?

In the "small" right over the hips? That's the home of backache. It's caused by sick kidneys. That's why Doan's Kidney Pills cure it.

Astoria people endorse this. Read a case of it:

D. E. Duncan, who is employed at the Astoria Soda Works, 426 Duane street, and who resides at the corner of Duane and Ninth streets, says: "I had been troubled with a weakness of the back and kidneys for a number of years. There was a constant dull aching pain in the loins and a numbness of the back, often extending through the whole muscular system as far up as the shoulders. Not only did my back ache, but there was a weakness from the kidney secretions which was very annoying and disturbed my rest. I heard about Doan's Kidney Pills and one day I stepped into Charles Rogers' drug store and got a box. I found them to be a great benefit. After the first few doses I felt better. I know of others who have used them with the same good results."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents per box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the U. S. Remember the name Doan's and take no substitute.

A Wizard.

In the belief that he possessed the supernatural power to cause rain or sunshine at his pleasure, the man removed his shoes, coat, and vest, and by making a good imitation of a windmill of his arms attracted quite a crowd about him. Just then a meddlesome police officer hove in sight and had the man removed to the detention hospital for the insane at the city hall. An examination of his effects brought forth a conglomerate assortment of odds and ends. Among these were two small phials of oily matter, said by him to be the oil of green snakes captured in the garden of Eden, which possessed supernatural power when placed in the hands of a divinely gifted person, such as he himself. In the soles of his shoes he had a layer of

red sand which he claimed came from the site upon which stood King Solomon's temple. One grain of this sand when thrown in a certain direction would produce rain or drought at the will of him so gifted.

To confirm the poor demented creature's notions of his power it commenced to rain just at the time of his capture. This omen of supernatural power excited him to the condition in which he was found. He is now making grass grow at pleasure in the lawn at the Napa state hospital for the insane.

Order of the Golden Kite.

The reports of the bestowing of the Order of the Golden Kite on Japanese officers for conspicuous gallantry read rather quaintly, sandwiched as they generally are between items of news which shows how very much abreast of the times and western ideas is the Land of the rising sun. Still, they serve to recall what a very large role kite-flying plays in the life of the east. According to ancient Chinese records the first kite was invented about 200 B. C., and since that date the national pastime has advanced to a very fine art indeed. Perhaps the most ingenious and wonderful kite is that which was recently acquired by a museum of natural history in America, which measured from head to tail no less than 40 feet, and was made to fold up accordion-like. The front of this kite represented the fierce, large head of the famous dragon of Chinese mythology, with its huge eyes, gaping mouth and long, protruding horns. The eyes were in themselves a work of genius. They were contrived from a series of bamboo sticks run crosswise, to the center of which pasteboard disks, painted in circles of black, yellow and white.

Souvenir of the Fair.

The first issue of "The Forest City," the official art souvenir of the great world's fair at St. Louis has just been published, and a small number has been received for distribution to readers of The Astorian. Part 1 contains 16 superb illustrations, each of which is worth the price at which the portfolio is sold. These works are to be distributed only through the leading

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